

DEPPEA LUNDELLII (RUBIACEAE), A NEW
SPECIES FROM GUATEMALA

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DEPPEA LUNDELLII Dwyer, sp. nov. -- Herbae parvae caulibus pluribus ex rhizomate gracile orientibus; stipulae ad 1.7 mm longae; folia opposita laminis oblongis vel obovato-oblongis, ad 3.5 cm longis et 1.3 cm latis, venis lateralibus 4-6 (-7), infra in costa venisque villosis; petioli ad 6.5 mm longi. Flores in axillis solitarii, pedicellis ad 1.5 cm longis; calyx lobis 0.5-1.0 mm longis praeditus; corolla alba tubo vix visibile lobis ad 3.5 mm longis, glabris. Fructus maturitate costis sex tenuibus longistorum et asymmetricis dehiscentes pericarpio apice saepe laciniato, seminibus pluribus reticulatis.

Herbs, the stems several, arising from a slender wiry rhizome, less than 10.0 cm long, densely ferrugineous-villose; stipules persistent, narrowly triangular, to 1.7 mm long, densely ferrugineous-villose; leaves opposite, often with several pairs, variable in length at a node, the blades oblong or obovate-oblong, to 3.5 cm long, to 1.3 cm wide, deltoid to obtuse at apex, acute, attenuate-acute or cuneate at base, the costa slender, prominulous beneath, the lateral veins 4-6 (-7), strongly prominulous beneath, thinning toward the margin, with (0-) 1-2 veins between two adjacent lateral veins arising from the costa, usually 2-4 pinnatifid veins between two lateral veins, the other veins invisible, thin-chartaceous, \pm concolorous, occasionally bullate above, villose on costa and veins below, the margin ciliate, the hairs straight or curled. Flowers solitary in axils, the pedicels capillaceous, to 2.5 cm long, 0.25 mm wide; hypanthium ca 1.0 mm long, glabrous or glabrescent, the calycine cup scarcely measurable, the lobes 4, to 1.5 mm long, glabrous; corolla white, the tube to 0.35 mm long, the lobes oblong, to 3.5 mm long, glabrous; stamens 4, the anthers ca 1.35 mm long, apiculate; style slender, ca 3.5 mm long, the stigma narrowly clavate, the ovules on 2 intrusive axile placentas. Fruit when immature, oblong, to 3.5 mm long, to 1.0 mm wide, delicately 6-ribbed, at maturity splitting unevenly from apex toward base, lacinate at apex, the ribs in strong contrast to the thin, scarious white pericarp, the cystoliths abundant, the seeds subrotund, ca 0.2 mm in diam, reticulate.

GUATEMALA; Dept. Baja Verapaz: Niño Perdido, bordering Rio San Jose, 8 km north, in high forest, on wall, C. L. Lundell & E. Contreras 21025 (LL; holotype, MO). Herb; flowers white.

I have examined almost all of the holotypes of Deppea and am certain that the new species is distinct. Deppea is a genus with approximately 25 species restricted to the tropics of Mesoamerica, except for one or two species found in northern South America. The center of distribution of the genus is southern Mexico.

The species is named in honor of Dr. C. L. Lundell who has collected many Rubiaceae in Guatemala, as well as in other countries of Mesoamerica.

Deppea includes subshrubs, shrubs, and trees. There is no species so reduced in stature as the new species. There are several taxa with leaves less than 3.5 cm in length, e.g. D. microphylla Greenman.

The fact that the stipules are persistent, the corolla tube extremely short, and the fruits finally dehiscent precludes it from being assigned to Hoffmannia which has consistently axillary inflorescences. While occasionally one finds a collection of Deppea with a few of the flowers solitary, this is an unusual circumstance. The few fruits of D. lundellii observed as dehiscent, split irregularly into 2 ? parts from apex to base; at least one fruit is lacinate at the apex, presumably a unique feature of the new species. D. tenuiflora Benth., e.g. Breedlove 12006 from Chiapas, Mexico and D. pubescens Hemsley, e.g. Hinton 7402 from Mexico, have fruits which split to the base. The minute flowers of D. anisophylla L. Wms, e.g. Skutch 1539 may have withered fruit as a skeleton-line basket of 4 ribs from which the wall proper pulls away as scarious remnants. The young fruit of D. lundellii does not have a ringlike structure connecting the ribs as they converge at the apex of the pericarp as in D. obtusiflora Benth., D. hamelioides Standl.